

*Sur un théorème fondamental dans la théorie des équations différentielles.* Par M. EMILE PICARD. Received May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1902. Read June 12th, 1902.

Je viens de lire dans les *Proceedings* l'intéressant article de M. W. H. Young sur le théorème fondamental de la théorie des équations différentielles. Étant considérée l'équation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y),$$

où  $f$  est holomorphe dans le voisinage de  $x = a$ ,  $y = b$ , il existe une intégrale prenant la valeur  $b$  pour  $x = a$ , et il n'en existe qu'une seule.

La première partie du théorème est due à Cauchy, et notre savant collègue veut bien rappeler que j'ai donné dans mon *Traité d'Analyse* une démonstration très simple de la seconde partie du théorème. Récemment M. Painlevé a donné une autre démonstration que commente M. Young. Celui-ci fait ensuite quelques remarques au sujet d'objections non fondées adressées à la seconde partie du théorème. Je me permettrai de rappeler que ces objections faites pour la première fois par M. Fuchs m'étaient bien connues dès 1893, date de l'apparition du tome II de mon *Traité*, et je les discute d'une manière explicite dans mon ouvrage.

Il suffira de transcrire deux passages. On lit tout d'abord (p. 314) :

Par système d'intégrales  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$ , prenant pour  $x = x_0$  les valeurs  $y_1^0, y_2^0, \dots, y_n^0$ , nous entendons un système jouissant de la propriété suivante. On imagine qu'autour de  $x_0, y_1^0, \dots, y_n^0$  on décrit des cercles de rayons très petits, et l'on suppose que,  $x$  restant à l'intérieur du premier en suivant un arc de courbe  $C$  aboutissant au point  $x_0$ , les valeurs correspondantes des  $y$  restent respectivement à l'intérieur des autres cercles ; de plus, quand,  $x$  restant sur  $C$  tend vers  $x_0$ , les  $y$  tendent respectivement vers les  $y_0$ .

Plus loin (p. 317) on lit encore :

J'ai insisté sur l'existence unique du système d'intégrales dans le cas général où les équations ne présentent aucune circonstance singulière ; c'est en effet une proposition tout à fait fondamentale et la base même de l'emploi des équations différentielles dans toutes les applications. Il sembla de plus, à lire certaines phrases d'un mémoire de M. Fuchs (*Sitzungsberichte der Berliner Akademie*, 1886) que ce théorème puisse être mis en doute. Je ne puis partager le scepticisme de l'illustre géomètre. Sans doute, on peut faire une légère critique à la démonstration

de Briot et Bouquet, mais la proposition elle-même n'en subsiste pas moins, comme je viens de le montrer, si l'on précise bien l'énoncé. Prenons, en le simplifiant, un exemple cité par M. Fuchs: Soit l'équation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y^2}{x},$$

dont l'intégrale générale est visiblement

$$y = \frac{1}{\log x + C},$$

$C$  étant une constante arbitraire. Soit  $x_0 \neq 0$ ; lorsque  $x$  part du voisinage de  $x_0$  et  $y$  revient après avoir tourné un très grand nombre de fois autour de l'origine, une intégrale quelconque  $y$  a une valeur de plus en plus petite, mais il est bien clair que l'on ne peut pas dire qu'on a là une intégrale s'annulant pour  $x = x_0$ , au sens que nous avons spécifié plus haut.

Il semble donc bien que dès 1893 la question était épuisée. J'ajoute seulement une remarque relative à la première partie du théorème. La démonstration de Cauchy montre, avec les notations usuelles, que l'intégrale holomorphe a au moins comme rayon de convergence l'expression

$$a(1 - e^{-b/2aM});$$

j'ai montré (*Bulletin des Sciences Mathématiques*, 1888, et *Traité d'Analyse*, tome II, p. 313) que ce rayon est au moins la plus petite des deux quantités

$$a \text{ et } \frac{b}{M}.$$

J'en ai donné une seconde démonstration dans le tome III de mon *Traité* (p. 90, en note).

*The Repetition of the Sum-Factor Operation. Abstract of an informal communication made by Lieut.-Col. A. CUNNINGHAM.*  
June 12th, 1902.

Let  $\sigma(N)$  denote the sum of the sub-factors of  $N$  (including 1, but excluding  $N$ ). It was found that, with most numbers,  $\sigma^m N = 1$ , when the operation ( $\sigma$ ) is repeated often enough. There is a small class for which  $\sigma^m N = P$  (a *perfect* number), and then repeats; another small class for which  $\sigma^m N = A$ ,  $\sigma^{m+1} N = B$ , where  $A, B$  are *amicable* numbers, and then repeats ( $A, B$  alternately); another small class for which (even when  $N$  is *small*,  $< 1000$ )  $\sigma^m N$  increases beyond the practical power of calculation.

*On a Geometrical Proposition connected with the Continuation of Power-Series.* By M. J. M. HILL, Professor of Mathematics, University College, London. Received June 11th, 1902. Read June 12th, 1902.

1. The following notation will be employed in this paper.

The circle of convergence of the power series  $P(x-x_0)$  will be called  $C_0$  and its radius  $R_0$ .

If a new series is derived from  $P(x-x_0)$  by Taylor's theorem, say  $P(x-x_0 | x_n)$ , then its circle of convergence will be denoted by  $C_n$ , and the radius of that circle by  $R_n$ .

Also the circle described with centre  $x_n$  so as to touch the circle  $C_n$  internally will be called  $C_{ns}$ .

2. Suppose that by means of Taylor's theorem a new power series is obtained from  $P(x-x_0)$ , say  $P(x-x_0 | x_1)$ . Then

$$P(x-x_0) = P(x-x_0 | x_1) \quad (\text{I.})$$

throughout the circles  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ .

The object of this paper is to draw attention to a geometrical proposition arising out of the mode adopted in Harkness and Morley's *Introduction to the Theory of Analytic Functions* for proving this result, which is perhaps of some interest. It is shown in Art. 89 of the book referred to that, if  $x_2$  be a point in the region for which the relation (I.) has been proved, and if with  $x_2$  as centre circles be described so as to touch the circles  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  internally (viz., the circles  $C_{20}$  and  $C_{21}$ ), then the relation (I.) also holds throughout the smaller of these two circles, so that the region in which (I.) is known to be valid is extended by so much of the smaller of the two circles  $C_{20}, C_{21}$  as may be external to that region.

3. In order to demonstrate the validity of the relation (I.) throughout the whole of the space common to  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ , it is necessary to prove that it is possible to choose successive positions of  $x_2$  so that every part of the region common to  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  shall be interior to one at least of the circles  $C_{20}, C_{21}$  for which the relation (I.) can be

42. Prof. M. J. M. Hill on a Geometrical Proposition [June 12, proved to hold. This is the geometrical proposition to which reference is made in the heading of the paper.

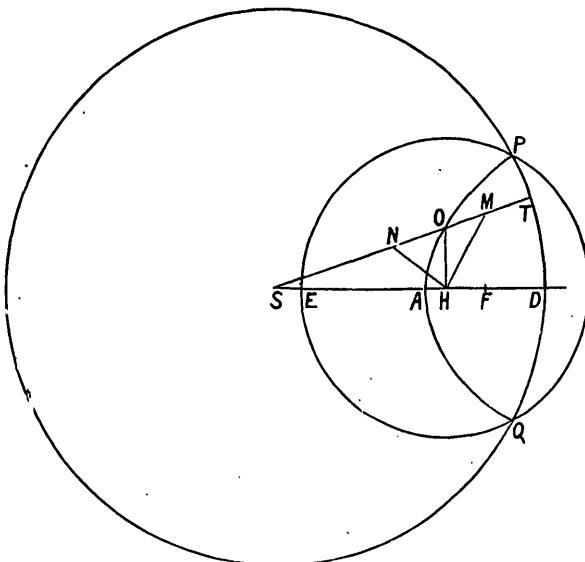


FIG. 1.

Let  $S$  (Fig. 1) be the point  $x_0$ , let  $H$  be the point  $x_1$ .

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be the intersections of the circles  $C_0$ ,  $C_1$  (the figure is drawn for the case  $R_0 > R_1$ ).

Let the arc of the hyperbola whose foci are  $S$  and  $H$  and which passes through  $P$  and  $Q$  be drawn.

Let  $A$  be that vertex of the hyperbola which lies on this arc.

Let  $SH$  cut the circle  $C_0$  at  $D$ , and let  $F$  be the middle point of  $AD$ .

4. Let  $x_3$  be a point somewhere in the region common to  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ . It will be proved that—

(a) If  $x_3$  lie on the arc  $PQ$ , then the circles  $C_{20}$  and  $C_{21}$  coincide.

Let  $x_3$  be at  $O$  (Fig. 1).

$$\text{Then } SO - HO = SP - HP = R_0 - R_1;$$

$$\text{therefore } |x_3 - x_0| - |x_3 - x_1| = R_0 - R_1;$$

$$\text{therefore } R_0 - |x_3 - x_0| = R_1 - |x_3 - x_1|;$$

therefore the radius of  $C_{20}$  is equal to the radius of  $C_{21}$ .

(b) If  $x_2$  be separated by the hyperbolic arc from  $x_0$ , then the circle  $C_{20}$  is smaller than the circle  $C_{21}$ .

Take  $x_2$  at  $M$ .

Let  $SM$  meet the hyperbolic arc  $PQ$  at  $O$ .

Join  $HO, HM$ .

$$\text{Then } SM - HM = SO + OM - HM$$

$$= SO - HO + (HO + OM - HM)$$

$$> SO - HO;$$

$$\text{therefore } |x_2 - x_0| - |x_2 - x_1| > R_0 - R_1;$$

$$\text{therefore } R_0 - |x_2 - x_0| < R_1 - |x_2 - x_1|;$$

therefore the radius of  $C_{20}$  is less than the radius of  $C_{21}$ .

(c) If  $x_2$  be separated by the hyperbolic arc from  $x_1$ , then the circle  $C_{21}$  is smaller than the circle  $C_{20}$ .

Take  $x_2$  at  $N$ .

Let  $SN$  meet the hyperbolic arc  $PQ$  at  $O$ .

Join  $HO, HN$ .

$$\text{Then } SN - HN = SO - ON - HN$$

$$= SO - HO - (ON + HN - HO)$$

$$< SO - HO;$$

$$\text{therefore } |x_2 - x_0| - |x_2 - x_1| < R_0 - R_1;$$

$$\text{therefore } R_1 - |x_2 - x_1| < R_0 - |x_2 - x_0|;$$

therefore the radius of  $C_{21}$  is less than the radius of  $C_{20}$ .

5. It is necessary to find out whether the vertex of the hyperbolic arc, viz., the point  $A$ , is inside the circle  $C_{10}$ .

Let  $a, b$  be the semi-transverse and semi-conjugate axes, and  $e$  the eccentricity of the hyperbola.

Then

$$AH = ae - a,$$

$$SH = 2ae.$$

Also it is known that  $R_1$  lies between  $R_0 - SH$  and  $R_0 + SH$ ,

$$\text{i.e., } R_0 - |x_1 - x_0| < R_1 < R_0 + |x_1 - x_0|,$$

$$\text{and } |x_1 - x_0| = 2ae. \dots$$

Let the points on the hyperbola be given by

$$x = a \sec \theta, \quad y = b \tan \theta.$$

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Then, if  $P$  be the point corresponding to  $\theta = \gamma$ , we have

$$SP = R_0 = e(\sec \gamma) + a,$$

$$HP = R_1 = e(\sec \gamma) - a.$$

If  $A$  be inside  $C_{10}$ , then  $HA < HD$ ; therefore

$$HA < R_0 - |x_1 - x_0|,$$

i.e.,

$$ae - a < R_0 - 2ae,$$

$$3ae - a < R_0;$$

but

$$2a = SP - HP = R_0 - R_1;$$

therefore

$$a = \frac{1}{2}(R_0 - R_1),$$

and

$$e < \frac{R_0 + a}{3a};$$

therefore

$$e < \frac{3R_0 - R_1}{3(R_0 - R_1)},$$

or, using the values of  $R_0$ ,  $R_1$  above,

$$3e < e \sec \gamma + 2. \quad (\text{II.})$$

Hence, if  $\gamma$  be large enough,  $A$  will lie inside  $C_{10}$ .

6. If, however, the relation (II.) is not satisfied, let  $x_2$  be taken inside  $C_{10}$ , at a small distance  $\epsilon$  from its circumference, and lying between  $x_1$  and  $x_0$ .

Then  $R_0 - |x_1 - x_0| = |x_1 - x_0| - |x_2 - x_0| + \epsilon$ .

If  $A$  be not inside the circle  $C_{20}$  throughout which the relation (I.) holds, take  $x_3$  inside  $C_{20}$ , at the same distance  $\epsilon$  from its circumference, and lying between  $x_2$  and  $x_0$ ; then

$$R_0 - |x_2 - x_0| = |x_2 - x_0| - |x_3 - x_0| + \epsilon,$$

and so on, until the relation

$$R_0 - |x_{n-1} - x_0| = |x_{n-1} - x_0| - |x_n - x_0| + \epsilon$$

is reached.

Then  $|x_2 - x_0| = 2|x_1 - x_0| - (R_0 - \epsilon)$ ,

$$|x_3 - x_0| = 2^2|x_1 - x_0| - (2^2 - 1)(R_0 - \epsilon),$$

$$|x_4 - x_0| = 2^3|x_1 - x_0| - (2^3 - 1)(R_0 - \epsilon),$$

... ... ... ... ... ...

$$|x_n - x_0| = 2^{n-1}|x_1 - x_0| - (2^{n-1} - 1)(R_0 - \epsilon)$$

$$= (R_0 - \epsilon) - 2^{n-1}[R_0 - \epsilon - |x_1 - x_0|].$$

Hence it is possible after a *finite* number of circles have been constructed in this manner to find one  $C_{n_0}$ , such that the relation (I.) holds throughout it, and such that

$$|x_n - x_0| < \frac{1}{2} (SA + SD),$$

i.e.,  $|x_n - x_0| < SF,$

where  $F$  is the middle point of  $AD$ .

Then  $x_n$  is between  $S$  and  $F$ .

Then the circle  $C_{n_0}$  contains the point  $A$  in its interior.

Hence the point  $x_3$  can be taken at  $A$ , and then the circles  $C_{20}, C_{21}$  corresponding to this position of  $x_3$  coincide, and the relation (I.) holds throughout them.

It is to be noticed that this has been accomplished by taking a *finite* number of successive positions of  $x_3$ .

7. It will now be proved that it is unnecessary to consider positions of  $x_3$  which do not lie on the hyperbolic arc  $PQ$ .

If  $x_3$  be anywhere between the arc  $PQ$  of the hyperbola and the arc  $PDQ$  of the circle  $C_0$ , say at  $M$ , let  $SM$  meet the hyperbolic arc at  $O$ , and the arc  $PDQ$  of the circle  $C_0$  at the point  $T$ ; then the circle whose centre is  $M$  and which touches  $C_0$  internally at  $T$  lies wholly inside the circle whose centre is  $O$  and which touches  $C_0$  internally at  $T$ . Hence  $x_3$  may be taken at  $O$  on the hyperbolic arc instead of at  $M$ , and all extensions of area obtained by supposing  $x_3$  at  $M$  will be included in those obtained by supposing  $x_3$  at  $O$ .

A similar conclusion is obtained when  $x_3$  lies between the hyperbolic arc  $PQ$  and the arc  $PEQ$  of the circle  $C_1$ .

8. It is necessary to obtain a sequence of points on the hyperbolic arc such that each point lies inside the circle whose centre is at the preceding point of the sequence, and which touches both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  internally.

If the points on the hyperbolic arc are given by the equations

$$x = a \sec \theta, \quad y = b \tan \theta,$$

it will be proved that such a sequence of points is determined by the values  $0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}, \dots$  of the parameter  $\theta$  which are such that

$$\frac{\sin(\gamma - \theta_{n+1})}{\sin(\gamma - \theta_n)} = \frac{\sin(\gamma - \theta_1)}{\sin \gamma}, \quad (\text{III.})$$

where  $\gamma$  is the value of the parameter which corresponds to the

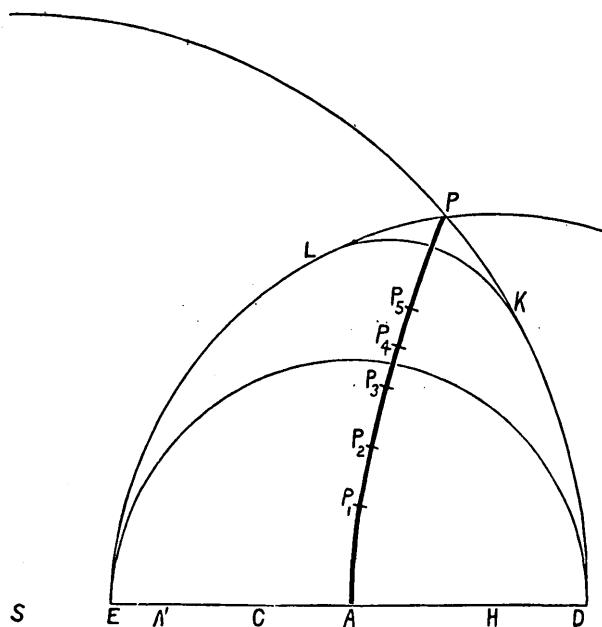


FIG. 2.

intersection  $P$  (see Fig. 2\*) of the circles  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ ; and  $\theta_1$  is an acute angle which satisfies the condition

$$\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1 < \frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \sin \frac{1}{2}\gamma. \quad (\text{IV.})$$

Putting  $n = 0$  in (III.), it follows that  $\theta_0 = 0$ ; so that the vertex  $A$  of the hyperbolic arc is the first point of the sequence.

It follows from (III.) that

$$\sin(\gamma - \theta_n) = \sin(\gamma - \theta_1) \left( \frac{\sin(\gamma - \theta_1)}{\sin \gamma} \right)^{n-1};$$

therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sin(\gamma - \theta_n) = 0;$$

therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \theta_n = \gamma.$$

Hence the sequence of points on the hyperbolic arc has an intersection of the circles  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  for a limit-point. This is the point  $P$  in the figure.

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\* The description and dimensions of this figure are given in Art. 10 below.

The distance between consecutive points  $P_n P_{n+1}$  of the sequence is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{(a \sec \theta_{n+1} - a \sec \theta_n)^2 + (b \tan \theta_{n+1} - b \tan \theta_n)^2} \\ &= \frac{2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n) \sqrt{a^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} + \theta_n) + b^2 \cos^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)}}{\cos \theta_n \cos \theta_{n+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

The radius of the circle whose centre is  $P_n$  and which touches both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  internally (viz., the circle  $C_{n0}$ ) is

$$a(e \sec \gamma + 1) - a(e \sec \theta_n + 1) = (\sec \gamma - \sec \theta_n) \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}.$$

It is obvious that

$$\sqrt{a^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_n + \theta_{n+1}) + b^2 \cos^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)} < \sqrt{a^2 + b^2},$$

and it will be proved that

$$\frac{2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)}{\cos \theta_n \cos \theta_{n+1}} < \sec \gamma - \sec \theta_n. \quad (\text{V.})$$

When this has been done it will follow that  $P_n P_{n+1}$  is less than the radius of the circle  $C_{n0}$ .

The inequality (V.) follows from a transformation of equation (III.) by means of the condition (IV.).

Equation (III.) can be written thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)}{\cos \theta_n \cos \theta_{n+1}} &= (\sec \gamma - \sec \theta_n) \cos \frac{1}{2}(\gamma - \theta_n) \left( \frac{\cos(\gamma - \frac{1}{2}\theta_1)}{\cos[\gamma - \frac{1}{2}(\theta_n + \theta_{n+1})]} \right) \\ &\times \left( \frac{\cos \gamma}{\cos \theta_{n+1}} \right) \left[ \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1}{\frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \sin \frac{1}{2}(\gamma + \theta_n)} \right]. \quad (\text{VI.}) \end{aligned}$$

This is shown by some simple trigonometrical reductions which need not be given.

$$\text{Now } \cos \frac{1}{2}(\gamma - \theta_n) < 1;$$

$$\frac{\cos \gamma}{\cos \theta_{n+1}} < 1, \text{ since } \gamma > \theta_{n+1};$$

$$\frac{\cos(\gamma - \frac{1}{2}\theta_1)}{\cos[\gamma - \frac{1}{2}(\theta_n + \theta_{n+1})]} < 1, \text{ since } \theta_1 < \theta_n + \theta_{n+1};$$

$$\frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1}{\frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \sin \frac{1}{2}(\gamma + \theta_n)} < 1, \text{ since } \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1 < \frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \sin \frac{1}{2}\gamma \\ < \frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \sin \frac{1}{2}(\gamma + \theta_n).$$

Hence (V.) follows from (VI.).

Hence each point  $P_{n+1}$  of the sequence lies inside the circle whose centre is at the preceding point  $P_n$  of the sequence and which touches both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  internally.

It may happen that this circle will contain not only  $P_{n+1}$ , but also a finite number of the following points of the sequence.

Now, let  $x_3$  start from the vertex  $A$  (see Fig. 2) of the hyperbolic arc, and move along that arc up to the last point (say,  $P_3$ ) of the sequence inside the circle  $ED$  whose centre is  $A$  and which touches  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  both internally. For each position of  $x_3$  on the hyperbolic arc, let the circle be described whose centre is at  $x_3$  and which touches both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  internally. Let the circle corresponding to the position of  $x_3$  at  $P_3$  touch  $C_0$  at  $K$  and  $C_1$  at  $L$ . Then the part of the envelope of the circles described which is above  $SH$  is bounded by the arc  $EL$  of  $C_1$ , the arc  $LK$ , the arc  $KD$  of  $C_0$ , and the straight line  $DE$ . The relation (I.) is valid throughout this area.

To extend the area further, the last point of the sequence inside the circle  $KL$  is taken. With it as centre, a circle (not shown in the figure) is described to touch the circles  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  both internally at  $K', L'$ , suppose. Then, reasoning as before, the relation (I.) is valid in the area bounded by the arcs  $KL$ ,  $LL'$ ,  $L'K'$ ,  $K'K$ ; and so on. Here it is to be noted that the inclusion of the whole of the space between  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  in the region for which (I.) is valid requires the consideration of an *infinite* number of positions of  $x_3$ .

9. It is interesting to examine the limiting values of the ratios of the radius of the circle  $C_{n0}$  to  $P_n P$  and to  $P_n P_{n+1}$  respectively as  $P_n$  approaches  $P$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } \frac{\text{radius of } C_{n0}}{P_n P} &= \frac{ae(\sec \gamma - \sec \theta_n)}{\sqrt{(a \sec \gamma - a \sec \theta_n)^2 + (b \tan \gamma - b \tan \theta_n)^2}} \\ &= \frac{e}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{b^2}{a^2} \left( \frac{\sin(\gamma - \theta_n)}{\cos \theta_n - \cos \gamma} \right)^2}} \\ &= \frac{e}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{b^2}{a^2} \left( \frac{\cos \frac{1}{2}(\gamma - \theta_n)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\gamma + \theta_n)} \right)^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

When  $n$  becomes infinitely great,  $\theta_n$  approaches the limit  $\gamma$  and the above ratio approaches the finite proper fraction

$$\sqrt{\frac{e^2 - e^2 \cos^2 \gamma}{e^2 - \cos^2 \gamma}}.$$

The limiting value of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P_n P_{n+1}}{\text{radius of } C_{n_0}} &= L \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)}{\cos \theta_n \cos \theta_{n+1} (\sec \gamma - \sec \theta_n)} \\ &\times \sqrt{\frac{a^2 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} + \theta_n) + b^2 \cos^2 \frac{1}{2}(\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)}{a^2 + b^2}} \\ &= \cos(\gamma - \frac{1}{2}\theta_1) \left( \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1}{\frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \gamma} \right) \sqrt{\frac{a^2 \sin^2 \gamma + b^2}{a^2 + b^2}}, \text{ by (VI.),} \end{aligned}$$

which is a finite positive proper fraction, since

$$\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1 < \frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \cdot \sin \frac{1}{2}\gamma < \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \gamma.$$

#### 10. Description of Fig. 2.

The figure is drawn to one half of the dimensions given below.

$S$  is the point  $x_0$ .

The radius of convergence of the series  $P(x - x_0)$  is  $SD = 6'$ .

$H$  is the point  $x_1$ , where  $SH = 5'$ .

The radius of convergence of  $P(x - x_0 | x_1)$  is  $4'$ .

$P$  is a point of intersection of the circles  $C_0, C_1$ .

$AP$  is an arc of the hyperbola whose foci are  $S$  and  $H$ , which passes through  $P$ ;  $A$  being the vertex of this hyperbolic arc.

$C$  is the centre of the hyperbola.

$CA = 1'$ .

If  $a$  be the semi-transverse axis,  $b$  the semi-conjugate axis, and  $e$  the eccentricity of the hyperbola, then

$$2ae = 5',$$

$$a = 1';$$

therefore

$$e = 2.5,$$

$$b = a\sqrt{e^2 - 1} = a \frac{\sqrt{21}}{2} = 2.29'.$$

The value of the parameter belonging to  $P$  is  $60^\circ$ ; so that  $\gamma = 60^\circ$ .

The condition  $\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta_1 < \frac{1}{2} \sin \gamma \cdot \sin \frac{1}{2}\gamma$  is satisfied by taking  $\theta_1 = 24^\circ$ .

Then

$$\theta_2 = 36^\circ 29',$$

$$\theta_3 = 44^\circ 18',$$

$$\theta_4 = 49^\circ 25',$$

$$\theta_5 = 52^\circ 50'.$$

These five values of the parameter correspond to the points

$P_1$ , whose coordinates are 1·1, 1·02;

$P_2$         "        "        1·24, 1·69;

$P_3$         "        "        1·4, 2·24;

$P_4$         "        "        1·54, 2·67;

$P_5$         "        "        1·65, 3·02;

the coordinates of  $P$  are 2, 3·97.

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*Über den Satz von der Gleichheit der Basiswinkel im gleichschenkligen Dreieck. Von DAVID HILBERT in Göttingen.  
Received August 22nd, 1902.*

Unter der *axiomatischen* Erforschung einer mathematischen Wahrheit verstehe ich eine Untersuchung, welche nicht dahin zielt, im Zusammenhange mit jener Wahrheit neue oder allgemeinere Sätze zu entdecken, sondern die vielmehr die Stellung jenes Satzes innerhalb des Systems der bekannten Wahrheiten und ihren logischen Zusammenhang in der Weise klarzulegen sucht, dass sich sicher angeben lässt, welche Voraussetzungen zur Begründung jener Wahrheit notwendig und hinreichend sind.

So habe ich beispielsweise in meiner Festschrift *Grundlagen der Geometrie\** die ebenen Schnittpunktsätze, nämlich den speciellen Pascalschen Satz für das Geradenpaar und den Desarguesschen Satz von den perspektiv liegenden Dreiecken einer axiomatischen Untersuchung unterworfen, und in gleicher Weise haben auf meine Anregung hin M. Dehn† den Satz von der Winkelsumme im Dreieck und G. Hamel‡ den Satz von der Geraden als der kürzesten Verbindung zwischen zwei Punkten behandelt.

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\* Leipzig, 1899; vgl. auch die mit Zusätzen versehenen Übersetzungen ins Französische (*Annales de l'École Normale*, 1900) und ins Englische (Chicago, 1902).

† *Mathematische Annalen*, Bd. LIII., 1900.

‡ Inaugural-Dissertation, Göttingen, 1901, und eine demnächst in den *Mathematischen Annalen* erscheinende Abhandlung.